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viously undivided commune (II, 557 ff.). And finally, the present reviewer cannot resist expressing his feelings of satisfaction that Dr. Rivers adequately emphasizes "the great value of secret societies and secret cults as repositories of ancient cultures" (II, 592).

It remains to say that these two volumes, in their format, are a fine example of the English printers' art. A broad page, clear large type, excellent paper, and serviceable binding make them easy to read and a pleasure to own. There are six full-page maps in black and white, a large colored map of Melanesia, twenty-five plates from photographs, and a number of illustrations in the text. An ampler index would have been desirable.

HUTTON WEBSTER

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

The Natural History of the State. By HENRY JONES FORD. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1915. Pp. viii+188. \$1.00.

"The purpose of this treatise is to examine the foundations of political science from the naturalistic point of view established by the publication of Darwin's *Origin of Species* in 1859" (p. 1). The first problem attacked and the one to which most of the volume is devoted is "whether or not in the formation of the human species the operations of natural selections have been direct or indirect, individual or social" (p. 12). The question is approached from the viewpoint of the data of biology, psychology, linguistics, and anthropology, respectively, the writer reaching the following conclusions: "(1) Although biology indicates different modes of evolutionary process it is at present inconclusive as to the mode pursued in the case of man. (2) Psychology, linguistics, and anthropology indicate that the mode pursued in the case of man must have been the process distinguished as social evolution and not the process distinguished as individual evolution. (3) When appeal is made to evolutionary doctrine for social and political criteria, the only hypothesis that can be regarded as having solid claims to consideration is that of social evolution" (p. 145). From this it is argued that the hypothesis of social evolution may be regarded as sufficiently probable to warrant consideration of its political and social implications.

Applying this theory to the consideration of the state, the author finds that the undivided commune is the primordial form of the state, and that it antedates the differentiation of man from the antecedent

animal stock. "Thus 'the state' is the permanent and universal frame of human existence. Man can no more get out of the state than a bird can fly out of the air." It then follows, according to Professor Ford, that the state includes society and that society is not a part of the whole but is coextensive with it. The author's position here is rather more confusing than useful and it is certainly in conflict with the accepted usages of the terms employed. It amounts to the identification of the term "state" with "society" and results in consequent confusion.

In the discussion of the state as an organism the work is more persuasive and useful. The writer makes it clear that the treatment of the state as an organism does not depend upon supposed physiological parallels between animal life and state life, "but solely on the nature of its own being as a product of social evolution." "Profound changes of environment produce profound changes of government. State species unable to effect readjustments of structure to meet new conditions, tend to disappear, so that from age to age there is a succession in state species analogous to that which takes place in biological species" (p. 176). The object of the state is the perfecting of the human life, and the social value of any institution is to be determined, not by individual advantage, but by the advantage to society.

The volume is a very interesting and instructive survey of the conflicting evidence as to the social nature of evolution. Its main value, however, will be in providing a basis for an evolutionary viewpoint of government and society as distinguished from the obsolete theories of government and the state based upon the social contract and its resulting theories of individual rights. In this respect it furnishes an excellent approach to the modern view of the theory and function of the state.

ARNOLD BENNETT HALL

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

Social Legislation in Iowa. By JOHN E. BRIGGS. Iowa City: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1915. Pp. xiv+444. \$2.00.

This volume contains an account of Iowa's social legislation from 1838 to 1914. "The work is chiefly a statement of the contents of laws without their legal verbiage; it is not an effort to account for cause, effect, or value" (p. x). The legislative history is divided into periods represented by the official codes of 1851, 1860, 1873, and 1897, and it is upon these codes that the history is based. Naturally enough, more than half of the volume is devoted to the final period from 1898 to 1914,